

Mike Burns

From: John Anderson
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 7:52 AM
To: John Anderson
Subject: Georgia and Russia sign WTO deal

Greetings all. Russia and Georgia finalized and signed their WTO agreement today. Some background below, and if you would like to talk with Sergi Kapanadze of Georgia's MFA, please reach him at +9955 (77) 733 877.

Georgia is extremely pleased that Russia accepted the deal proposed by the Swiss. It is a great deal for Georgia, since for the first time it provides for the monitoring of trade between Russia and the Georgia's occupied regions. The focus now will be on the implementation of this agreement. Georgia is grateful to the Swiss for their mediation efforts.

The documents were signed by Georgia's Ambassador to Geneva (UN and WTO) Zurab Tchiaberashvili and the Russian Trade Representative to Switzerland - Yuri Khromov.

The package of documents included: 1. The bilateral agreement between the Governments of Georgia and the Russian Federation on the basic principles of customs administration and monitoring of the trade flows: 2. The sides exchanged the Memoranda of Understanding between Georgia and Swiss and Russia and Swiss on the identity of the neutral third party, to whom the monitors will be accountable. This will be The Government of Switzerland. 3. They exchanged the notes regarding the terms of reference of the neutral private company, who will be accountable to the Swiss and who will do the monitoring. This is important, since this exchange of letters provides for the key elements necessary for the permissive environment for monitoring: monitors will not be citizens of Russia and Georgia, monitors will have ability to move freely while implementing their mandate, etc...

If you have trouble reaching Sergi, let me know. Cheers.... John Anderson (Tel. +1 240 393 0982)

The Podesta Group provides representation to the Government of Georgia. Additional information is on file at the US Justice Department.

John Anderson, Principled

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